

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/CCT: RAFEAREY
APPROVED BY M: MR EAGLEBURGER
AF/E:WBARRETT
EUR/WE: MR. MOEN
S/S:D.MACK

----- 012765

O 070027Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238303

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

AGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR

REFS: (A) STATE 236485; (B) ROME 14378; (C) STATE 22195;
(D) ROME 14382

1. IN RESPONSE REF (B), THERE IS LITTLE WE CAN ADD TO
GUIDANCE PARA 3, REF (A). SINCE USG WILL NOT BARGAIN OR
NEGOTIATE CONCESSIONS, POLITICAL OR MATERIAL, TO ACHIEVE
RELEASE OF KAGNEW FOUR, GOI IS LEFT WITH ONLY HUMANITARIAN
AND PSYCHO-POLITICAL ARGUMENTS TO ADVANCE WITH OUR PRI-
VATELY CONVEYED CONCURRENCE. (GOI IS OF COURSE FREE TO
PURSUE IN ITS DISCRETION ITS EARLIER EXPRESSED IDEA OF
THREATENING TO WITHHOLD ITALIAN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO
ERITREAN INDEPENDENCE GROUPS. WE WOULD, IN FACT, CONSIDER
THIS A USEFUL STEP.) WE MUCH PREFER THAT GOI CONTINUE
TO PRESENT THESE ARGUMENTS AS ITS OWN, WITHOUT REVEALING
THAT IT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH USG. REVEALING US HAND
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WOULD, WE BELIEVE, SERVE NO NECESSARY OR USEFUL PURPOSE AT

THIS STAGE.

2. FOLLOWING ARE OUR RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC QUERIES PARA 5,
REF (B):

(A) AS ABOVE INDICATED, WE ASK THAT GOI CONTINUE
OSTENSIBLY TO ACT ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER.

IF ELF/PLF REPS PROBE FOR INFORMATION ON USG ATTITUDES
AND INTENTIONS, MANZINI SHOULD BE ASKED TO REPLY BY
REFERENCE TO SECRETARY'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF US TER-
RORISM POLICY CONTAINED REF (C). IF ELF/PLF REPS ASK
MANZINI TO PASS A MESSAGE TO, OR ARRANGE DIRECT CONTACTS
WITH, USG WE HOPE HE WILL AGREE TO FORMER AND UNDERTAKE
TO INFORM USG OF LATTER.

(B) NO NEW ARGUMENTS CAN BE MUSTERED AT THIS
POINT.

(C) USG POLICY IF NON-USG ENTITIES CONTEMPLATE
CONCESSIONS TO TERRORISTS IS TO MAKE KNOWN OUR VIEW THAT
SUCH DEMANDS SHOULD NOT BE ACCEDED TO.

(D) IF MANZINI INQUIRES WHETHER USG IS UTILIZING
OTHER CHANNELS TO ELF/PLF AND WHAT FEED-BACK WE ARE GET-
TING, AMBASSADOR SHOULD REPLY THAT SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS AND
ICRC HAVE BEEN ASKED TO ASSIST BUT THAT NONE OF THESE
APPROACHES HAS YET BORNE FRUIT AND WE CONTINUE TO RELY
HEAVILY ON GOI'S HIGHLY VALUED INTEREST AND HELP.

(E) IF MANZINI ASKS WHAT THE EPMG IS DOING TO HELP,
HE SHOULD BE ADVISED, FOR GOI INFORMATION ONLY, THAT
EPMG ASSISTANCE HAS CONSISTED OF SHARING INTELLIGENCE ON
THE WHEREABOUTS AND WELL-BEING OF THE CAPTIVES, OF RE-
FRAINING FROM ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER THEM, OF
AGREEING TO BROADCAST FAMILY APPEALS, AND POSSIBLY OF
OTHER EFFORTS OF WHICH WE ARE NOT AWARE. SITUATION IS
OBVIOUSLY A DIFFICULT ONE FOR EPMG.

3. CONCUR PARA 7 REF (A) BUT ONLY LINK WE CAN DRAW BE-
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TWEEN UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE OF KAGNEW FOUR AND
ITALIAN SELF-INTEREST IS ANY INFERENCE GOI MAY DRAW FROM
OUR ALREADY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ITS ASSISTANCE,
PLUS INTEREST OF ALL NATIONS IN ELIMINATION OF TERRORISM
AS A POLITICAL INSTRUMENT.

4. GUIDANCE PER REF (D) WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. CAN
EMBASSY ADVISE WHERE ELF GROUP ENVISAGES PROPOSED DIRECT

TALKS TAKING PLACE? KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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